

# Speed kills! Pirates run past Stephenville, 32-15

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By Matthew Brice Oct 20, 2018



La Vega head coach Don Hyde after defeating Stephenville (Photo: Matthew Brice, 247Sports)

The Waco La Vega Pirates displayed their team speed on both sides of the ball in it's 32-15 win over the Stephenville Yellow Jackets.

The two state title contenders played to a stalemate in the first quarter. However, the game took off in the second.

The Yellow Jackets got the scoring started when junior QB Kade Renfro found Kyle Lindsey on a fade route for a 21 yard score, early in the second quarter. On the Pirates next drive, sophomore QB Ara Rauls III found TaeQuan Tyler streaking behind the Yellow Jacket secondary for a one handed, 65 yard score on a post route to even the score at 7. The Yellow Jackets found some brief momentum when Gavin Rountree returned the ensuing kickoff into Pirate territory. But the entire game swung 2 plays later. With the Yellow Jackets threatening to regain the lead, Pirates' senior linebacker **Jared Rogers** picked off Renfro at the 6, turned on the jets and returned it for a 94 yard score to make it 14-7 after the extra point. The Yellow Jackets would go 3 and out and after the ensuing punt, the Pirates would put together an 80 yard drive that ended with a Rauls III score from 19 yards out to increase their lead to 20-7. That lead would then become 20-9 when the Yellow Jackets blocked the Pirates' extra point attempt and Kason Williams would run it

back for 2 points. The Yellow Jackets have been known to score very fast and with 2:40 left in the first half, they still had a shot at making it a 1 score game. But Pirates sophomore linebacker Jordan Rogers, little brother of Jared, would deliver a Jack Tatum-like hit on 3rd down to force another 3 and out. That's when the Pirates would put the game out of reach for the rest of the night. After the following punt, sophomore slot back Jar'Quae Walton would take off on a 60 yard scoring run that would increase the Pirates' lead to 26-9. The Pirates would then sit on that lead until **John Richards** would add a 1 yard score in the 4th quarter. Renfro would find Rountree for a 22 yard score late for the Yellow Jackets but, the Pirates were well in control and proceeded to drain the clock on their next drive.

"9 more! Not 3, but 9! Let's commit to 9 more games being played!"; is what La Vega head coach Don Hyde told his team after the game. 9 more games being played would mean that the Pirates would be playing in the 4A-Division 1 state championship at AT&T Stadium in Arlington. The talent is definitely there and while they are very young, this is a team that is mature beyond it's years. However, they may have to see Stephenville again in the postseason, as well as Argyle, if they're going to make it that far.

Both La Vega and Stephenville are back in action next Friday night. La Vega will take a 13 mile trip to battle rival China Spring at 7PM. Stephenville will be on the road once again when they renew one of Texas' greatest rivalries against the Brownwood Lions, also at 7.

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